

colonies, Nova Scotia was the first to adopt this plan, its Legislature having appointed an agent in London in 1761. New Brunswick was similarly represented in 1786, Upper Canada as early as 1794, Lower Canada in 1812 and British Columbia in 1857. For some years after 1845, several of the colonies were represented in London by Crown Agents, appointed by the Secretary of State, and paid by the colonies themselves. This system, however, was of but short duration.

The High Commissioner for Canada.—With the federation of the provinces of British North America in 1867, a new political entity which could not avail itself of the services of the provincial agents was brought into existence. To supplement the ordinary method of communication between the Canadian and British Governments (which at that time was by correspondence between the Governor-General and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and now between the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada and the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs in Great Britain), the position of High Commissioner for Canada was created in 1880 (see R.S.C. 1927, c. 92). The duties of the office are defined in the Act as follows:—

“The High Commissioner shall

“(a) act as representative and resident agent of Canada in Great Britain, and in that capacity, execute such powers and perform such duties as are, from time to time, conferred upon and assigned to him by the Governor in Council;

“(b) take the charge, supervision and control of the immigration offices and agencies in Great Britain, under the Minister of Immigration and Colonization;

“(c) carry out such instructions as he, from time to time, receives from the Governor in Council respecting the commercial, financial and general interests of Canada in Great Britain and elsewhere.”

Sir Alexander Galt was the first Canadian High Commissioner, holding office from May 11, 1880, until May, 1883; in 1884 he was succeeded by Sir Charles Tupper. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal was appointed in 1896. Sir George H. Perley took charge of the High Commissioner's Office in 1914 but was appointed High Commissioner only on Oct. 12, 1917. The present incumbent, Hon. P. C. Larkin, was appointed in February, 1922.

The office of the High Commissioner for Canada is in the Canadian Building, Trafalgar Square, London, S.W. 1.

His Majesty's Government in Great Britain in April, 1928, appointed a High Commissioner for Great Britain who resides in Ottawa, and whose position corresponds to that of the High Commissioner for Canada. This appointment was made in consequence of discussions at the Imperial Conference of 1926. The relevant passage in the report of the Inter-imperial Relations Committee runs as follows:—

“A special aspect of the question of consultation which we considered was that concerning the representation of Great Britain in the Dominions. By reason of his constitutional position, as explained in section IV (b) of this report, the Governor-General is no longer the representative of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. There is no one therefore in the Dominion capitals in a position to represent with authority the views of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain.